Permission for fishing to foreign firms in Indian territorial waters

2042. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign firms have been given permission for fishing in the territorial waters of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any regulation has been formulated for grant of deep sea fishing permit to the foreign firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Maritime Zones of India Act, 1981 and the rules framed there under regulate fishing by foreign fishing vessels. However, no foreign firms have been granted permission for fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone since 1996.

Rehabilitation package for farmers of Kuttanad and Idukki districts in Kerala

2043.PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the M.S. Swaminathan's report of rehabilitation package to farmers of Kuttanad and Idukki districts in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has started the implementation of this package;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the package is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 24.07.2008, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support of Rs. 1840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions for the development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system. On 20.11.2008, Government has also granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support of Rs. 764.45 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions for mitigating the agrarian distress in Idukki district.

The programmes/interventions envisaged under the Kuttanad and Idukki packages will be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India within their existing schemes and as per the extant funding pattern. The Government of Kerala will, after identifying the activities to be undertaken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines / procedures for such schemes for release of necessary